

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07620 132354Z

71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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R 130835Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1039

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS PINT, KS

SUBJ: STUDENT SITUATION

REF SEOUL 7551

1. SINCE NOV 9 ROK MEDIA HAVE CARRIED DAILY BRIEF, LOW-KEYED REPORTS OF STUDENT PROTEST ACTIVITIES.

2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES (HUFS) STUDENT COUNCIL NOV 8 RESOLVED TO BOYCOTT CLASSES UNTIL NOV 15. POLICE PICKED UP SEVEN PARTICIPANTS, OF WHOM FIVE WERE LATER RELEASED AND TWO SENTENCED BY SUMMARY COURT TO TWENTY DAYS IN JAIL. USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO VISITED HUFS CAMPUS NOV 12 REPORTED BOYCOTT WAS IN EFFECT.

B. STUDENTS AT PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY IN SEOUL DECIDED NOV 9 TO BOYCOTT CLASSES.

C. FOLLOWING A CHAPEL SESSION NOV 12, EHWA UNIVERSITY GIRLS VOTED TO WEAR BLACK MOURNING RIBBONS ON THEIR BLOUSES UNTIL ARRESTED STUDENTS WERE RELEASED

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 07620 132354Z

AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS RESTORED. POLICE DETAINED

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT UNTIL LATE EVENING. VISITOR TO CAMPUS NOV 13 REPORTED THAT MOST GIRLS WORE RIBBONS IN THE MORNING BUT REMOVED THEM WHEN SO ORDERED BY PROFESSORS.

D. STUDENTS AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) PHARMACY COLLEGE DECIDED AT NOV 12 MEETING TO JOIN CLASS BOYCOTT.

E. METHODIST SEMINARY STUDENTS LAUNCHED BOYCOTT NOV 12.

3. SEOUL UNIVERSITY DEANS DECIDED NOV 9 TO HOLD CLASSES EVEN IF ONLY ONE STUDENT ATTENDED AND TO DENY CREDIT UNDER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RULES TO ANY STUDENT WHO MISSED MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF LECTURES. THIS RESOLUTION HAS NOT VISIBLY Affected SNU BOYCOTT THUS FAR. STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SOURCES SAY THEY VIEW IT AS UNENFORCEABLE. WE UNDERSTAND GOVT ORDERED SNU TO ADOPT HARD LINE ON CLASSES.

4. SNU LAW COLLEGE ANNOUNCED NOV 12 IT WOULD CLOSE FOR ONE WEEK. LATER THE SAME DAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION REVERSED ITSELF AND ANNOUNCED CLASSES WOULD BE HELD.

5. AT FINAL HEARING NOV 12 IN TRIAL OF SEVEN KOREA UNIVERSITY STUDENT MEMBERS OF "BLACK OCTOBER" GROUP ARRESTED IN JUNE, PROSECUTION DEMANDED TERMS RANGING FROM FIVE TO TEN YEARS. SEOUL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD RENDER VERDICT DEC 3.

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